

that we pass the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act.

We must also support research into better breast cancer detection methods. Mammographies, which is the only tool we have had for 40 years, miss too many women and cannot suffice as our gold standard. But instead of passing legislation to stop drive-through mastectomies or supporting funding increases for research and development, we have become a drive-through Congress, rushing to pass what is politically divisive.

This bill deserves passage.

#### IN SUPPORT OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN BOB MATHIAS

(Mr. NUNES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, some of you may know that former Congressman and two-time Olympic Gold Medalist Bob Mathias has been battling cancer for the past few years.

As many in this Chamber know, Bob is a fighter and is determined to beat it. As Bob continues his fight, I ask that we keep him and his family in our thoughts and prayers.

#### THE BREAST CANCER PATIENT PROTECTION ACT

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, breast cancer does not discriminate based on health care coverage.

Statistics tell us that one in seven American women will develop breast cancer; yet no one ever expects these things. No one plans or prepares to be diagnosed with breast cancer. No one preemptively investigates their health insurance coverage in the event that they require a mastectomy or a lumpectomy.

Suddenly these women, our mothers, our sisters, our daughters, are faced not only with a terrible, deadly diagnosis but with unnerving treatment decisions.

I am a cosponsor of the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act to ensure one thing: that women don't have to worry about their health insurance plan during this terrifying experience. This is the law in Florida, and it should be the law of the land. While serving in the Florida legislature, I passed similar legislation, and my commitment has not wavered.

This bill mandates that women be covered for a 48-hour hospital stay after a mastectomy and a 24-hour stay for a lumpectomy. What is more, it ensures full coverage for follow-up care.

Asking anyone coping with a deadly disease to lose sleep over health insurance is outrageous. As a public servant, I believe I have a responsibility to stand up on this issue so that women

facing this trying ordeal can focus on what really matters: their family, their faith, and their future.

#### ISRAEL/IRAN

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, the United States and our ally Israel stand at an important and historic juncture.

Iran's continued efforts to establish a nuclear weapons program and their continued efforts to assist Hezbollah, an internationally recognized terrorist organization, is in defiance of their obligations to a free and stable world.

Today I stand united with my friends in Israel, who face a constant threat by Iranian-sponsored Hezbollah terrorists.

The House has acted by passing H.R. 282, the Iran Freedom Support Act. If this bill is passed, a strong set of economic sanctions will begin to hold Iran responsible for their actions in the Middle East. It is critical that the Senate act on this companion legislation that is pending before them.

Congress must confront Iran's continued belligerence by halting that country's nuclear aspirations and work to prevent their further sponsorship of terrorists.

#### A TRIBUTE TO ANDREW VELEZ

(Mr. NEUGEBAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, this morning I come to this House with a very heavy heart. Earlier this week, PFC Andrew Velez was killed while tracking Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan.

It is always a tragedy when we lose one of our young soldiers, but this loss is especially tragic because less than 2 years ago, Andrew's older brother, Freddy, was also killed while protecting this country in fighting the war on terrorism.

The Velez family now has made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom and democracy not once, but twice. Andrew and Freddy Velez are American heroes. We must never forget the sacrifice of these two brothers for freedom.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Andrew's father, Roy; his stepmother, Carmen; Andrew's wife, Veronica; and his three children, Jasmine, Jordan, and Jacob as they mourn the loss of their son and their husband and their dad.

Mr. Speaker, the price of freedom has never been cheap, but I have to say that the Velez family has given an extra measure for freedom and democracy. I hold them in my prayers and ask all Americans to do so at the same time.

#### SECURITY FIRST

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that we secure our southern border immediately. One overlooked reason is the Department of Homeland Security has issued data which indicates that each year, hundreds of aliens from countries known to harbor terrorists or who promote terrorism are apprehended attempting to enter this country illegally. Since 2002, the number of non-Mexicans apprehended while trying to enter the United States illegally has increased 343 percent.

This is of great concern to me and to others. In the words of former Deputy Secretary ADM James Loy of Homeland Security: "Entrenched human smuggling and corruption in areas beyond our borders can be exploited by terrorist organizations."

There have been reports, Mr. Speaker, that terrorist organizations, including al Qaeda, have been operating, recruiting members, and maybe training terrorists in South American countries, including Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay. This is particularly alarming when you consider that attempts to enter our country illegally from Brazil has increased 900 percent over the last 3 years.

It is imperative that we secure our borders now.

#### THE VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, casualties are mounting on all sides in the Middle East, and yet our government, representing the most powerful Nation in the world, stands aside and watches as civilian casualties mount everywhere.

Why in God's name aren't we getting involved to call for an end to the violence, to bring the parties together so that they can find a way to create peace?

We are required, by virtue of our standing in the world, to bring people together. Not to create more isolation, not to create more war, but to bring people together. We must get involved as this continues to spiral out of control. The whole world is watching and the entire world is at risk.

#### THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY'S SECURITY AGENDA

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, this Republican majority is dedicated to the security agenda. We have created a plan of action for leading that addresses the issues facing America today.